

Members of Alaska Youth Environmental Action attended the Civics and Conservation Summit in Juneau where they met with legislators to talk about issues they care about in their communities, including the Renewable Energy Campaign.

The Anchorage Youth Parent Foundation Peer Outreach Workers will spread awareness of sexual assault in April by hosting an Art Competition at the POWER Teen Clinic.

Mr. President, I am so proud of all of these young people. I value their idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspectives as they volunteer to make their communities better and assist those in need.

Many similarly wonderful activities will be taking place all across the Nation. I encourage all of my colleagues to visit the Youth Service America Web site—www.ysa.org—to find out about the selfless and creative youth who are contributing in their own States this year.

I thank my colleagues Senators AKAKA, BAYH, BEGICH, BINGAMAN, BROWN, BURR, CARDIN, COCHRAN, COLLINS, CORNYN, DODD, DURBIN, FEINGOLD, FEINSTEIN, GILLIBRAND, GREGG, HAGAN, HATCH, INOUE, JOHNSON, KENNEDY, KLOBUCHAR, LANDRIEU, LAUTENBERG, LEVIN, LIEBERMAN, LINCOLN, MARTINEZ, MENENDEZ, MIKULSKI, MURRAY, BEN NELSON, BILL NELSON, SPECTER, and WHITEHOUSE for standing with me as original cosponsors of this worthwhile legislation, which will ensure that youth across the country and the world know that all of their hard work is greatly appreciated.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KENYA

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to call the attention of my colleagues to the serious dangers that exist for human rights today in Kenya. I particularly express my concern about the death threats being made against Paul Muite, a distinguished human rights attorney in that country.

Mr. Muite is a native of Kenya who has been an outspoken critic of the hundreds of extrajudicial killings that have taken place in Kenya since 2006, and he has sought an investigation by the International Criminal Court of these killings.

The threats against him have escalated in recent weeks. This week, I learned that someone had thrust an AK-47 in Mr. Muite's face.

I urge the Government of Kenya to give high priority to this alarming situation, and to take all necessary steps to protect the safety of Mr. Muite and others struggling to defend the fundamental human rights of the people of Kenya. The world is watching and I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join in calling attention to this basic issue.●

EXERCISE TIGER

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the 65th anniversary of the Exercise Tiger operation and the American servicemen who took part in this exercise. I extend my gratitude to their dedication and service to the people of Missouri and of the Nation.

On April 28, 1944, German Navy "E" boats, patrolling the English Channel, attacked eight American landing ships engaged in training operation Exercise Tiger. These operations, organized by the U.S. Army, were undertaken off a beach in Devon, England often patrolled by German "E" torpedo boats. With only one English ship to guard the convoy, there was a devastating surprise attack on the American ships ending in multiple ships being sunk.

Of the four thousand men who participated in this critical operation, nearly a quarter lost their life including over 200 men from the 3206th Quartermaster Company located in Missouri. Due to the secrecy of the mission, information on the fatalities was only released after the successful completion of the D-Day invasion.

April 28, 2009 marks the 65th historic anniversary of the WWII Battle of Exercise Tiger and an opportunity to recognize all the men who served and gave their life in that historic battle. I am proud to say that we have renamed U.S. Highway 54 in my home State of Missouri as the WWII Exercise Tiger Expressway, in honor of the sailors and soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The Missouri Exercise Tiger Army and Navy Anchor Memorial has been built on the Audrain County Court House Lawn in their memory.

The servicemen who participated in the Battle of Exercise Tiger are to be commemorated for their heroic actions. These men were an example for all American soldiers and a credit to the United States as it remains the free and great country that it is today.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find

solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

It is time to wake up, America. All it would take [for the price to drop] is for Congress to allow the oil companies to drill for oil anywhere in this country and the crude oil price would drop \$30 to \$50 a barrel. I, for one, am tired of Congress blaming business or the President for the problems of this country. Congress holds the key and they sit back and run up the government deficits until the value of our dollar is falling like a rock, which, in turn, is driving up the price of crude oil.

It was not that long ago that the Congress of the 1990s showed fiscal responsibility. But, this Congress shows that it is unwilling to try to solve any of the nation's problems. The deficit is snowballing into a problem that cannot be ignored any longer it is having an effect on all of our daily lives.

There has been many articles recently about the amount of oil that this country has is not enough to solve this countries demands for oil, but it sure would go a long way towards balancing trade deficits and have a huge effect on the economy. If Congress shows a willingness to do something about this problem, the commodities markets reaction would be swift; no action, be prepared to keep paying at the pump!

It is time to write our Senators and Representatives and tell them it is long overdue that they do something about utilizing our nation's oil resources, and with a percentage of the revenue from it to build renewable energy plants like solar and wind generation projects. The politicians keep saying that they are all for looking out for the poor and the working class in this country but [that is not happening.] There is some huge possibilities if Congress acts, if not we are starting to see what the future looks like.

KYLE, *Genesee*.

These high gas prices are making it more and more difficult for my family to just get to town for the basic essentials. We live on top of a mountain in Idaho, and it takes us 25 minutes just to drive down in town where we do our grocery shopping, banking, medical care and prescription pick-up as well as postal service, and any hardware or building supplies we might need as we are building a large house. Due to the increasing gas prices, we have had to condense our trips down to once a week, so we are not near as frequently patronizing the local businesses like we used to. I would plead with Congress to please increase our domestic oil supply as this is an extreme hardship on thousands and thousands of Idaho residents as well as the local businesses.

DARLENE, *Kamiah*.

Let me begin by saying that I sincerely appreciate your decision to consult your constituents about the energy issue. Though the electorate may be vastly uninformed, it is nevertheless every citizen's duty to be active and politics, and you are encouraging this laudable behavior. You deserve to be commended.

Yet now I fear I must turn from a tone of praise to one of criticism because you requested personal—and thus emotionally-charged—anecdotes. Indeed you asked for policy opinions, too, but from your email, those seemed of secondary importance. Anecdotes and emotions have no rightful place in the policy-making process, no matter how many you receive and how depressing they are. The responses you receive will

be surely come primarily from the constituents hit hardest by the high prices, yielding a very skewed measurement of public opinion.

The hysteria regarding the oil "crisis" of the day invariably clouds our judgment. It leads to proposals that lack all substance and justification such as the gas tax holiday. These ideas are motivated chiefly by personal electoral concerns rather than a sincere desire to help citizens. Using a conservative estimate of 20 mpg for my compact car, I would have to drive 725 miles a week this summer just to save \$100. This is the kind of relief the American people need, really? Oh and, by the way, it would cost an estimated \$9 billion when our nation is the largest debtor in the world. (I am not accusing you of supporting this proposal, but it illustrates my point.)

Instead let us look at a major cause of this problem; it is not speculators or Al-Qaeda. Over the period from 2000 when national prices were at approximately \$1.50 per gallon till the year 2007 when prices were at approximately \$2.75 per gallon, inflation is estimated at 17 to 40 percent. (This according to <http://www.measuringworth.com>.) Conservative numbers indicate \$1.50 in 2000 is worth \$1.80 in 2007, while aggressive estimates would value that same \$1.50 at \$2.11 in 2007. And as the average gas price in 2007 was at \$2.75, simple arithmetic shows that inflation accounts for at least a quarter of the price increase and possibly as much as half of the increase.

Yet in the public arena, most still blame the increase on speculators or price-gouging oil companies or OPEC. Inflation is seldom mentioned even though we have just seen how integral a role it has played. This problem needs to be addressed. Our inflation in turn is caused chiefly by our growing national debt and the expensive foreign policy that it finances. I submit that entitlement spending is problematic too, but our military spending is much more easily curtailed because public opinion is not as deeply entrenched in support of it.

Although I personally believe we should bring the troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan, I know you disagree, and I realize that I will be unable to sway you on this issue. However, military spending can still be readily cut back in other areas. I think our global military presence is a great place to start. As of 2005, America held 737 foreign military bases. The simple question is why. Why do we need a military presence in Japan or Germany? This cannot be defended as merely part of the War on Terror, and yet these bases and others like them are costing the American taxpayer billions of dollars every year. This is an encroachment on the national sovereignty of other countries, but, more importantly, it is an exorbitant waste. If there is a legitimate reason for our costly global military presence, please inform me. But if not, you must agree that the financial benefit of shutting down these bases is too great to ignore. (Check out Nemesis by Chalmers Johnson for more information on this topic.)

I sincerely thank you for soliciting the opinions of your constituents. As you may have assumed by now, I have not been hard hit by high energy prices. I am going to be a college student in the fall, and I prefer riding my bike to driving my car. I hope that you acknowledge the role of inflation in today's energy crisis, and I urge you to look at the rationale for our global military deployment. Getting our fiscal house back in order will have a real and palpable benefit for the American people, and solutions like scaling back the military are the first step.

EDDIE, *Meridian*.

I work for a small semi-trailer manufacturer here in Boise. Our orders for new trailers have fallen off considerably. Existing orders are now being canceled at an alarming rate. Every Monday morning there is a number of trailers parked in front of our building from owner operators calling it quits. I ask all of my customers why and they all say the diesel fuel prices are the reason.

Today, in our weekly sales meeting, the owner told us we needed to get some orders on the schedule or the company will be laying off 100 people. We have already reduced our workforce by 50 since March. He went on to say that if it continues he will have to send 50 more home by the end of July. Like I said above, we are a small company, we had 400 employees total at the first of 2008. By the end of July, we could cut our work force by 50 percent. I have heard that since January 1st the trucking industry has lost around 800 trucks due to fuel prices. This is unacceptable and very unreasonable and our government just stands by and lets it happen.

GARY, *Boise*.

We need relief fast. These fuel and food costs are killing our home budget. The baby boomers have having to continue to work to pay for fuel. We are very concerned and we vote, so please help.

JOE and CHERI.

The oil-producing countries recent pursuit of nuclear power—and their interest in investing in British nuclear power is an interesting trend, I think.

CLAUDIA.

Like most Americans, the high cost of gas has limited my trips to visit family and conduct personal business—a necessity in rural Idaho.

The only real solution to our energy problem is to wean this country off oil. Increased domestic oil production would only be putting a band-aid on a gaping hole. It would not solve our energy needs and we would still be buying oil from abroad. It is also a finite resource so in a few years time whatever drop in the bucket ANWR might provide (no one knows how much oil resides there), will eventually be gone. The only real solution is investment in alternative energy. Government-provided grants and subsidies to innovative entrepreneurs would eventually solve our problems and sever the dependence on Venezuela and the Middle East once and for all.

At the very least, this country can "tighten its belt" with regard to conservation. As we all know, America uses more energy per capita than any other country. I have traveled abroad extensively and have thoroughly enjoyed the availability of public transportation—most of which is subsidized by the government and small hot water heaters.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

COURTNEY, *Kamiah*.

Even though I have a secure job at the INL I do not consider myself to be rich I have seen many problems brought on by the energy/housing/banking fiascoes. I just saw a news article where people who have minimum wage jobs are having to quit because they cannot afford to drive to work!! Bread has doubled in price due to the new emphasis of the administration placed on ethonal production. My 401K plan has lost over \$50,000 since January 1, 2008.

I challenge you to try to live as a 'normal' American. I have a \$1,100 mortgage, a \$500 payment for my daughter's college education, \$250 in car insurance (for myself, my wife and two daughters), \$300 for food (that is just for my wife and myself) and about \$300 for gas. Why do not you challenge your fel-

low Congressman to this little test: Live like this for a month, no congressional [perks].

Assume you bring home \$3,000/month:

\$1,000 mortgage or rent
\$500 college
\$200 medical
\$300 gas
\$300 food
\$250 car insurance
\$400 credit card
Total: \$2,950.00

In my exaggerated case, that does not leave much for any car repairs (did I mention your car is 10 years old and because of all the money worries, it has lost 50 percent of its value since Jan!)—So a new hybrid car is totally out of the question. Also, I forgot to tell you that you worked in construction and have to have a big truck (3/4 ton) to haul your tools and supplies around—no sissy two-seater hybrid for this job! Now that you see what a family in Idaho is probably facing.

Big oil wants the offshore oil leases opened made available. . . . Gee, from what I saw on C-SPAN the other night, big oil is buying and holding leases, but not drilling. This has been going on since I believe the speaker said 1999 or so. Is not that kinda like artificially controlling the supply? They want the leases, they have to work or forfeit them, no refund. We will not even mention the \$56+ billion profit (Websters definition: Income minus expenses). And then they have the nerve to say they need the tax handouts because it is "good for the economy" and they need it to protect the environment. We just do not understand them! In a recent interview shown on TV, none of the big oil CEOs would support environmental advertisements.

The banks are making money investing in oil, etc. Then they charge 11-30 percent for credit cards. Not every American is to blame for the housing/banking bust! I just looked up my credit union rates for 0-\$999.00, they are paying 0.50 percent APY.

It is about time to put [partisan and parochial interests aside] and do what is right for the country. It does not matter if it is the idea of a Republican, Democrat, or Independent, if it is the right thing to do, support it!

After all of the ranting above, believe me that I still love and support America and what its real values are. But I do [believe that far too many people in power have collectively trashed America and are not being forced to fix it.]

JERRY.

My husband and I have been retired for almost four years. We make \$2,200 a month. We have a house payment of \$1,000 a month. When we retired, we were making plenty to keep us. Since we have retired, everything has gone up. The nearest grocery store (very small corner market) is 15 miles away. We have to drive 100 miles round trip to do any kind of shopping, doctors, etc. Our home is very rural, so when we built it 28 years ago it would have cost us \$10,000 to run a natural gas line, so we opted for propane, which has risen to \$3.00 a gallon. We have a wood stove to help, but the nearest wood to cut is 70 miles one way. My husband has bone on bone knees, and is in a lot of pain, so getting wood is going to get harder and harder. When we retired we figured on being able to draw Social Security at 62½. Now they have changed it to 66. My husband worked for 38 years and was able to retire while he is still young. He will be 60 in three days. Yes, we are able to live, but there is nothing extra. At least we are doing better than my parents making \$1,200 a month and having to decide between eating, staying warm, and being able to buy their prescription drugs, (that before the

Medicare Part D program were free). We need to take care of our own. Use our own oil, feed our own people, keep the illegal aliens out because they are using more of our governments money than we are. I have my doubts you will ever read this, but it is worth a try.
TRISH.

I work for the federal government, but had to make a difficult choice last week. I had to decide on buying enough gasoline to get to work for the next two weeks or providing additional food for my family. I commute daily from 20 miles one way to work and do not have an option to move at this time. The need for gasoline won over the additional food. Please support Senator Crapo and Congressman Simpson as they work to provide real solutions to our increased costs for energy instead of merely blaming the current administration and promising to raise taxes as the only solutions.

TOM, Ririe.

I have just read through your website and have found only responses that support your conclusions. Are you afraid to post any dissent on the subject? Yes, gas prices are at a record high and yes, many people are seeing significant new bills and a reduction in their spendable income. Some, certainly, are no longer able to stay out of debt. Nonetheless, all of the solutions that you are proposing will do little to impact anyone's pocketbook or bottom line. Offshore drilling, whether it be in Florida or Alaska, will not ease the current situation. No new oil will flow out of those areas for years. If you allow such exploration, who do you think will pay for the new equipment and technology required to access such oil? I know who—either the consumers or the taxpayers, but probably, both.

More importantly, why are many Americans struggling to pay the increased cost of gas? How many Prius drivers are complaining? How many times did the Senate vote down legislation to force automakers to manufacture more fuel efficient vehicles?

On your website, you state, "It is why I support legislation to fully utilize proven American oil and natural gas reserves in a way that preserves the environment for future generations." How are you going to fully utilize reserves and preserve the environment? Has there ever been an oil installation that preserves, or benefits the environment?

I am extremely happy that you support renewable energies. Idaho certainly has a great deal of renewable potential. We have great solar, wind, and water resources. Are you aware that Idaho, as a state, offers some of the most paltry incentives in the entire country? As a state, we do not even have a net-metering law.

Renewable energies are currently poised to be rapidly deployed, far faster than the decades required to extract the limited quantities of oil out of ANWR.

Before we vote to open vast areas to development, let us look forward to the future to determine if this is a prudent thing to do. At the very least, let us determine if it will even solve the issue at hand.

JAKE, Driggs.

Please check out this web site. We would love to have your signature. <http://www.drillforamericaoil.com>.

BOB.

I worked on building the Alaska Pipeline from 1972 to 1986 and have been back several times. I have been on every National Geographic and all the magazines, so I have seen oil as crude and the finished product. The refining is basically the same as in 1973. The cost is low to refine to gas stage. What I am

getting at is what Ted Stevens said to Leo Lucas and I back in the 1980s when I lived next door to him on Leo's ranch. He said, "There can be no crooked oilmen without crooked Senators and Congressmen. He went on to predict this "crunch" we are having as something that OPEC has always said would happen.

Maybe it is time to take it away from the oil people. We have more oil in Alaska than Saudi Arabia, same with North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and nobody has any idea how much is in Utah. But I would never go for drilling in ANWR.

That is something you cannot image. The beauty is stunning, although they say the impact would be like a sheet of plywood in the middle of a football field. I believe them to be liars. They have the best drillers in the world in Alaska. I have worked with all but a few of them. They can drill from elsewhere and get all the oil without going there, even if it is like the sheet of plywood. It will not stay that way. They are pigs and will ruin all they touch. Anyway, who would want a sheet of plywood in the middle of their football field?

For all they would get offshore would be dwarfed by it, anyway. Let us use our resources and tell OPEC that grain is \$139 a bushel. Leave them alone. They hate us. If someone wanted me to stay away from them there is no way they would ever have to say it twice.

OLIVER, Salmon.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I am honored to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating seven of my constituents who are recipients of the distinguished Presidential Unit Citation. This rare and prestigious citation is given to military units for their outstanding bravery, gallantry and service as well as the unit's performance in accomplishing its mission under extreme and hazardous conditions. In January 2009 this heroic award was conferred upon the Alpha Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment for service in the Republic of South Vietnam.

The individuals who received this award include Mr. Dale H. Hollabaugh, Mr. James E. Jackson, Mr. Joseph D. Boone, Mr. Gregory R. Stumbo, Mr. Kenneth Mosley, Mr. Clifton T. Geerde, and Mr. Kenneth E. Fulkerson. In 1970, in War Zone C during the Vietnam conflict, the Alpha Troop, First Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment performed heroically through a series of combat missions over several months. After a 5-year review by the Department of Defense, the unit was awarded this citation. It is an incredible honor to be a recipient of this award and I am humbled to be able to speak of these brave individuals.

We will never forget the brave citizens who fought to protect our freedoms during this time. It is with great honor that I recognize these citizens for what they have done and I know that their families and friends are proud to be a part of their lives.

I would like to thank these individuals for their contributions to the

state of Kentucky and to the United States, and I wish them well in all of their future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING TIM WAPATO

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor one of the most dedicated advocates for American Indian tribes in my State of South Dakota and throughout the United States. On Sunday, April 19, 2009, Tim Wapato was called home. Tim has long served many issues important to Indian Country throughout his life and I have included his obituary below and ask that it be printed in the RECORD. An enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribe in Eastern Washington, he made his home in Rapid City, SD. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, including his wife, my friend, Gay Kingman-Wapato, and their family. He will be greatly missed by everyone he touched on his journey through this world.

The information follows:

Sherman Timothy Wapato, 73, entered the Spirit World at his home in Rapid City, SD on Sunday, April 19, 2009 as a result of heart failure. He was an enrolled Member of the Colville Confederated Tribe in Eastern Washington.

Sherman Timothy Wapato was the second child of six children born to Paul and Elizabeth Wapato. During Tim's early years of schooling, the Family moved frequently, as Paul Wapato was an Evangelist Minister. Tim went to nine different elementary schools prior to settling down in the Methow Valley (Washington) for Jr. High and High School. The "Wapato Boys" were the only Indians attending Winthrop, H.S. and were admired for their abilities in school and in sports.

Tim graduated High School in 1953 in Winthrop, WA, where he excelled in sports and government. Tim was a popular student and was well known for his basketball prowess, good humor and leadership abilities. He was Class President as well as Homecoming King.

Tim then attended Washington State University and California State University at Los Angeles Majoring in Political Science, Public Administration and Police Administration.

In 1955, Tim enlisted in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1957 where he was in Communications and played basketball for the Army.

Tim moved to Los Angeles, California in 1958 where he joined the Los Angeles Police Department. (LAPD) With his quick-wit, coupled with passing a series of LAPD exams and obvious leadership abilities, at the young age of 34, Tim quickly rose to the rank of Lieutenant, LAPD. Tim was the youngest to achieve that rank at that age and at that time. Older Officers learned to "Trust" his Leadership and follow his supervision. He supervised up to 188 Officers depending upon the assignment and circumstances.